

December 14, 1952

Miss Elizabeth Burgi  
Department of Bacteriology  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York

Dear Miss Burgi:

In response to your undated letter recently received, I am sending you the five cultures listed on the enclosed sheet, as well as E. coli K-12 and W-1485.

If you propose to isolate additional mutants, as you should for any comprehensive study, may I suggest that you start with W-1485. This is a derivative of K-12 which has lost and is now sensitive to the latent phage lambda. You might wish either to study this phage itself from a chemical point of view, or to avert complications of other studies which might arise from its presence. If necessary, mutants of W-1485 can be made lysogenic again, and thus comparable to K-12 and the five other mutants by reinfection with lambda.

If you would care to return any mutants either from K-12 or W-1485 which you may happen to isolate, I will be happy to have them for our collection for future genetic studies.

Before committing yourself to a specific problem in this field, I suggest that you make sure that you are not duplicating other work already established, as I have been sending out these cultures to other workers. In particular, it would be wise for you to communicate with S. S. Cohen and J. S. Gots at the University of Pennsylvania, and with Putnam and Kozloff at Chicago.

My best regards to Dr. Zelle and Dr. Sherman.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Associate Professor of Genetics